

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently Amended) A method comprising:
determining, at an access point, a power save status of a first device configured to communicate in accordance with a first modulation scheme, wherein determining the power save status comprises transmitting a Null frame from the access point to the first device and awaiting a response to the Null frame from the first device; and
responsive to a determination that the first device is not in a power save state,
 - (i) enabling transmission protection at the access point; and
 - (ii) transmitting, from the access point, a message requesting that a second device enable transmission protection, wherein the second device and the access point are configured to communicate in accordance with [[a]] the first modulation scheme and a second modulation scheme.
2. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1, wherein determining the power save status of the first device further comprises:
~~transmitting one of a Request-to-Send frame, a Data frame, and a Null frame to the first device; and~~
receiving one of an Acknowledgement frame and a Clear-to-Send frame from the first device in response to the Null frame.
3. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, wherein transmitting the message requesting that the second device enable transmission protection comprises broadcasting a management frame.
4. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 3, wherein the management frame is one of:
 - (i) a Beacon frame indicating that protection status is active; and

(ii) a Probe-Response frame indicating that protection status is active.

5-7. (Canceled)

8. (Previously Presented) A method comprising:

transmitting, from an access point, a first message requesting that a first device enable transmission protection and a second message requesting that the first device disable transmission protection, wherein the first message and the second message are continuously transmitted in an alternating pattern, and wherein a time period separates the transmission of the first message and the transmission of the second message; and

in response to receiving a message from a second device at the access point, adjusting the time period separating the transmission of the first message and the second message,

wherein the second device is configured to communicate in accordance with a first modulation scheme, and the first device and access point are configured to communicate in accordance with the first modulation scheme and a second modulation scheme.

9. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 8, wherein, if the most recent message sent from the access point to the first device is the second message, adjusting the time period comprises reducing the amount of time until transmission of the first message.

10. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 8, wherein, if the most recent message sent from the access point to the first device is the first message, adjusting the time period comprises increasing the amount of time until transmission of the second message.

11. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 8, wherein the first message is a Beacon frame or a Probe-Response frame.

12. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 8, wherein the message received from the second device is a legacy modulation frame.

13-14. (Canceled)

15. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 8,
wherein the first modulation scheme is based at least in part on one of Barker modulation and Complementary Code Keying modulation; and
wherein the second modulation scheme is based at least in part on Orthogonal Frequency Division Multiplexing modulation.

16. (Previously Presented) A method comprising:
transmitting from an access point a first frame comprising a duration field with a value to a first device via a shared-communications channel in a wireless local area network in accordance with a first modulation scheme, wherein the first device is configured to communicate in accordance with the first modulation scheme and a second modulation scheme; and
receiving at the access point a second frame from a second device via the shared-communications channel in accordance with a second modulation scheme during a time interval defined by the value, wherein the second device is configured to communicate in accordance with the second modulation scheme,
wherein the first frame is undetectable to the second device, and
wherein the first modulation scheme and the second modulation scheme are different from each other.

17. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 16:
wherein the first modulation scheme is based at least in part on Orthogonal Frequency Division Multiplexing modulation; and
wherein the second modulation scheme is based at least in part on one of Barker modulation and Complementary Code Keying modulation.

18. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 16, wherein the transmitting is one of (i) periodic and (ii) sporadic.

19. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 16, wherein the first frame further comprises instructions to refrain from transmitting frames for a time interval.

20. (Currently Amended) An access point comprising:
a memory comprising a computer-readable program; and
a processor operably coupled to the memory and configured to execute the computer-readable program to cause the access point to
determine a power save status of a first device configured to communicate in accordance with a first modulation scheme, wherein determining the power save status comprises transmitting a Null frame from the access point to the first device and awaiting a response to the Null frame from the first device, and
in response to a determination that the first device is not in a power save state,
(i) enable transmission protection at the access point; and
(ii) transmit, from the access point, a message requesting that a second device enable transmission protection, wherein the second device and the access point are configured to communicate in accordance with ~~[[a]]~~ the first modulation scheme and a second modulation scheme.

21. (Previously Presented) The access point of claim 20, wherein the access point requests transmission protection at the third device by broadcasting a management frame via the shared-communications channel.

22. (Previously Presented) The access point of claim 21, wherein the management frame is one of:

- (i) a Beacon frame indicating that protection status is active; and
- (ii) a Probe-Response frame indicating that protection status is active.

23-25. (Canceled).

26. (Previously Presented) An access point comprising:
a memory comprising a computer-readable program; and
a processor operable coupled to the memory and configured to execute the computer-readable program to cause the access point to
transmit a first message requesting that a first device enable transmission protection and a second message requesting that the first device disable transmission protection, wherein the first message and the second message are continuously transmitted in an alternating pattern, and wherein a time period separates the transmission of the first message and the transmission of the second message; and
in response to receiving a message from a second device, adjust the time period separating the transmission of the first message and the second message,
wherein the second device is configured to communicate in accordance with a first modulation scheme, and the first device and access point are configured to communicate in accordance with the first modulation scheme and a second modulation scheme.
27. (Previously Presented) The access point of claim 26, wherein, if the most recent message sent to the first device is the second message, the access point adjusts the time period by reducing the amount of time until transmission of the first message.
28. (Previously Presented) The access point of claim 26, wherein, if the most recent message sent to the first device is the first message, the access point adjusts the time period by increasing the amount of time until transmission of the second message.
29. (Previously Presented) The access point of claim 26, wherein the first message is a Beacon frame or a Probe-Response frame.
30. (Previously Presented) The access point of claim 26, wherein the message received from the second device is a legacy modulation frame.

31-32. (Canceled)

33. (Previously Presented) The access point of claim 26,
wherein the first modulation scheme is based at least in part on one of Barker
modulation and Complementary Code Keying modulation; and
wherein the second modulation scheme is based at least in part on Orthogonal
Frequency Division Multiplexing modulation.

34. (Previously Presented) An access point comprising:
a memory comprising a computer-readable program; and
a processor operably coupled to the memory and configured to execute the
computer-readable program to cause the access point to
transmit a first frame comprising a duration field with a value to a first
device via a shared-communications channel in a wireless local area network in accordance with
a first modulation scheme, wherein the first device is configured to communicate in accordance
with the first modulation scheme and a second modulation scheme; and
receive a second frame from a device via the shared-communications
channel in accordance with a second modulation scheme during a time interval defined by the
value, wherein the second device is configured to communicate in accordance with the second
modulation scheme,
wherein the first frame is undetectable to the second device, and
wherein the first modulation scheme and the second modulation scheme
are different from each other.

35. (Previously Presented) The access point of claim 34:
wherein the first modulation scheme is based at least in part on Orthogonal
Frequency Division Multiplexing modulation; and
wherein the second modulation scheme is based at least in part on one of Barker
modulation and Complementary Code Keying modulation.

36. (Previously Presented) The access point of claim 34, wherein the transmitting is one of (i) periodic and (ii) sporadic.

37. (Previously Presented) The access point of claim 34, wherein the first frame further comprises instructions to refrain from transmitting frames for a time interval.

38. (Currently Amended) An article of manufacture including a non-transitory computer-readable medium having instructions stored thereon that, if executed by an access point, cause the access point to perform operations comprising:

determining a power save status of a first device configured to communicate in accordance with a first modulation scheme, wherein determining the power save status comprises transmitting a Null frame from the access point to the first device and awaiting a response to the Null frame from the first device, and

in response to a determination that the first device is not in a power save state,

(i) enabling transmission protection at the access point; and

(ii) transmitting, from the access point, a message requesting that a second device enable transmission protection, wherein the second device and access point are configured to communicate in accordance with [[a]] the first modulation scheme and a second modulation scheme.

39. (Previously Presented) The article of manufacture of claim 38, wherein the access point requests transmission protection at the second device by broadcasting a management frame via the shared-communications channel.

40. (Previously Presented) The article of manufacture of claim 39, wherein the management frame is one of:

(i) a Beacon frame indicating that protection status is active; and

(ii) a Probe-Response frame indicating that protection status is active.

41-43. (Canceled)

44. (Previously Presented) An article of manufacture including a non-transitory computer-readable medium having instructions stored thereon that, if executed by an access point, cause the access point to perform operations comprising:

transmitting a first message requesting that a first device enable transmission protection and a second message requesting that the first device disable transmission protection, wherein the first message and the second message are continuously transmitted in an alternating pattern, and wherein a time period separates the transmission of the first message and the transmission of the second message; and

in response to receiving a message from a second device, adjusting the time period separating the transmission of the first message and the second message,

wherein the second device is configured to communicate in accordance with a first modulation scheme, and the first device and access point are configured to communicate in accordance with the first modulation scheme and a second modulation scheme.

45. (Previously Presented) The article of manufacture of claim 44, wherein, if the most recent message sent to the first device is the second message, adjusting the time period includes reducing the amount of time until transmission of the first message.

46. (Previously Presented) The article of manufacture of claim 44, wherein, if the most recent message sent to the first device is the first message, adjusting the time period includes increasing the amount of time until transmission of the second message.

47. (Previously Presented) The article of manufacture of claim 44, wherein the first message is a Beacon frame or a Probe-Response frame.

48. (Previously Presented) The article of manufacture of claim 44, wherein the message received from the second device is a legacy modulation frame.

49. (Canceled)

50. (Currently Amended) An article of manufacture including a non-transitory computer-readable medium having instructions stored thereon that, if executed by a access point, cause the access point to perform operations comprising:

transmitting a first frame comprising a duration field with a value to a first device via a shared-communications channel in a wireless local area network in accordance with a first modulation scheme, wherein the first device is configured to communicate in accordance with the first modulation scheme and ~~[[the]]~~ a second modulation scheme; and

receiving a second frame from the second device via the shared-communications channel in accordance with a second modulation scheme during a time interval defined by the value, wherein the second device is configured to communicate in accordance with the second modulation scheme,

wherein the first frame is undetectable to the second device, and

wherein the first modulation scheme and the second modulation scheme are different from each other.

51. (Previously Presented) The article of manufacture of claim 50:

wherein the first modulation scheme is based at least in part on Orthogonal Frequency Division Multiplexing modulation; and

wherein the second modulation scheme is based at least in part on one of Barker modulation and Complementary Code Keying modulation.

52. (Previously Presented) The article of manufacture of claim 50, wherein the transmitting is one of (i) periodic and (ii) sporadic.

53. (Previously Presented) The article of manufacture of claim 50, wherein the first frame further comprises instructions to refrain from transmitting frames for a time interval.